Appl. No. 10/715,752
Docket No. CM2543CQ
Amdt. dated November 22, 2006
Reply to Office Action mailed on August 23, 2006
Customer No. 27752

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A process for applying an active material onto an article, series of articles or web of articles, comprising the steps of:

   a) applying said active material to a surface of a first tool in the form of a multitude of beads, with a coater unit having a multitude of applicators that are in close proximity to the surface, and positioned above the surface;

   b) heating the coater unit such that the active material is applied at a temperature of between 70 degrees C and 250 degrees C;

   c) contacting the surface of the first tool containing the active material, with a coating blade which has an angle of between 5° and 40° with the tangent of the surface of the first tool, and which applies a constant pressure onto the surface with active material; and

   d) transferring the active material from the surface of the first tool to an article, series of articles or web of articles, supported on a surface of a second tool and pressed against the surface of the first tool.

2. (Currently amended) A process for applying an active material onto an article, series of articles or web of articles, comprising the steps of:

   a) applying said active material to a surface of a first tool; and

   b) transferring said active material from the surface of the first tool to an article, series of articles or web of articles, supported on a surface of a second tool

and pressed against the surface of the first tool, wherein the active material in step a) is applied in the form of a multitude of beads with a coater having a multitude of extruder-applicators, which are in close proximity to the surface of the first tool; wherein the coater is heated such that the active material is applied at a temperature between 70 degrees C and 250 degrees C.

3. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the first tool and the second tool are each rotating, and wherein at least the first rotating tool is a roll.

4. (Original) The process of claim 3 wherein the coater and the first tool are heated and the second tool is cooled.

5. (Original) The process of claim 3 wherein the temperature of the coater is at least 5°C less than the temperature of the surface of the first tool.

6. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 3 wherein the coater comprises a multitude of extruder-applicators, which provide a multitude of extruded beads of the active material, and wherein the extruder-applicators have a pitch of less than 15 mm.

7. (Original) The process of claim 3, wherein the surface of the second tool has a temperature of between 0°C and 30°C.

8. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 6 wherein the process is continuous, wherein the coater continuously applies a multitude of beads on the surface of the first rotating tool, wherein the articles are a continuous series or web of articles, and wherein the process has a speed of at least 20m/ min.

9. (Original) The process of claim 6 wherein the active material is applied in an on-dot amount of at least $10g/m^2$.

10. (Original) The process of claim 3, wherein the surface of the second tool has a shore A hardness value from 25 to 90.

11. (Original) The process of claim 3, wherein the process is a gravure printing process, and wherein the surface of the first tool has cavities to receive the active material.

12. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 11 wherein the cavities have a pitch of less than 2 mm and a depth of less than 500 microns.

13. (Original) The process of claim 3 wherein the web of articles is stretchable and is rotated around said second rotating tool, such that the exit angle of the web is between 30° and 70°.

14. (Original) The process of claim 7 wherein the temperature of the surface of the first tool is higher than the melting temperature of the articles, series of articles or web of articles.

15-21. (Canceled).